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IDEA-0164-68

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15 March 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT : U-2R, T-35 Single Tracker Nose Installation

1. Lockheed Change Proposal U-2R-7 covers the installation of the T-35 tracker in the nose of the U-2R vehicle in lieu of a dual tracker installation in the Q-bay to provide horizon to horizon photographic coverage. This ECP was approved by Materiel on March 13, 1968.

2. A. The tracker provides a self-scoring system for identifying the actual flight path of the vehicle compared to the planned flight path.

B. It provides a quick check on the cloud cover over the target area for mission analysis.

C. It provides auxiliary photographic coverage in the event of prime payload failure or enemy interception.

D. It provides photographic confirmation of vehicle position in emplacement, air sampling, infra red and similar missions.

3. The rationale for requiring a single tracker installation rather than a dual tracker installation proposed by the contractor follows:

A. Horizon to horizon photographic coverage obtained with a single tracker is easier to read out than dual coverage.

B. Only one half the installation, maintenance, processing, etc. required for single tracker.

C. Quantity of cameras required to support operational requirements is reduced by one half.

D. Nose installation eliminates drag associated with external bubble and attendant hatch fairings.



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4. Although the nose tracker installation was considered during the U-2R design phase, it now appears to be a change in scope; however, the savings in system complexity and camera quantities will exceed the cost of this ECP.

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Sensor Systems Division  
Special Activities

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